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**National Center for Environmental Assessment  
Weekly Report for July 5, 2017**

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**Hot Item:**

**Tert-butanol (TBA) and ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE) external review draft IRIS assessments.** On July 11th, Janice Lee and Keith Salazar will present an overview on the external peer review draft assessments for tert-butanol (TBA) and ethyl tertiary butyl ether (ETBE) to the SAB-CAAC committee formed to jointly review the TBA and ETBE IRIS assessments. The presentation will be part of a public teleconference focused on discussion of the charge questions associated with those external peer review drafts. This public teleconference precedes the face-to-face SAB peer review meeting, scheduled for 15-17 Aug, 2017.

**PUBLIC ACTIVITIES/EVENTS**

**National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Annual Education Conference.** On July 10-13, ORD scientists Tina Bahadori, Kacee Deener and Maureen Gwinn will be attending the National Environmental Health Association (NEHA) Annual Education Conference in Grand Rapids, Michigan. They will be presenting a session on a proposed portfolio approach to risk assessment, with the discussion to be focused on what the needs are for public health practitioners who rely on risk assessment information to make public health decisions in their state or locality.

**Software automation approaches for systematic review.** On July 6th, Michele Taylor will present via webinar on use of software automation approaches for systematic review as part of a seminar series organized by the NIH Biomedical Information Science and Technology Initiative (BISTI).

**ToxForm.** On July 11, Kris Thayer will participate as a panelist in a ToxForm session

“Systematic Review – (When) is it worth it?” OCSPP’s Nancy Beck is also planning to attend.

**Society for the Study of Reproduction (SSR).** The 50<sup>th</sup> SSR annual meeting will take place on July 12-16 in Washington, DC. On July 14<sup>th</sup>, along with other senior leaders in the D.C. area from governmental and private sectors, Tina Bahadori will participate in a Stakeholders Panel Discussion, designed to increase SSR members’ awareness of how their research can and does influence important regulatory and policy decisions.

**International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant.** On July 16-21, Emmi Felker-Quinn will be attending the International Conference on Mercury as a Global Pollutant in Providence, RI. She will present a poster entitled ‘Systematic review and assessment of links between sulfur deposition, sulfur cycling, and mercury cycling in North American ecosystems.’

### **WITHIN EPA**

**Forest ecosystem evaluation.** Jeff Herrick and Alan Talhelm have been invited by OAR/OAQPS to review the forest ecosystem evaluation within the NOxSOxPM-Eco Risk and Exposure Assessment (REA) Planning Document. Jeff and Alan will provide comments to OAQPS by July 6, 2017.

### **Other Items of Interest:**

**AquaConSoil Conference.** Annette Gatchett attended the AquaConSoil Conference in Lyon, France last week in her role as the Science Advisory Board Chair of the INSPIRATION EU Project. More than 450 conference attendees focused on environmental issues centered around soil, groundwater and surface water as an integrated system. The conference plenary emphasized the importance of cooperative partnerships across Europe and the European Union’s role in supporting those partnerships (i.e., H2020 program). The opening session also included a panel discussion of a highlighted partnership Project INSPIRATION. The conference also focused on the growing concern of PFASs found in both water and soil across Europe and the world. Presenters from the US, Europe and Australia led many of the sessions. They noted that 27 PFASs were seen breaking through carbon filters in drinking water systems. These same systems are removing PFOA and PFOS. Estimates of exposure are about 60 % from drinking water. Treatment technologies are beginning to emerge.

**Environmental Determinants of Islets Autoimmunity (ENDIA) study.** On July 19, Michelle Angrish and Kris Thayer will participate as an advisor in the Environmental Determinants of Islets Autoimmunity (ENDIA) study via conference call. ENDIA is an Australia-wide

prospective birth cohort study of infants at increased risk of type 1 diabetes (T1D). This study is a collaborative effort between epidemiologists and toxicologists that began in 2013 and has since enrolled over 700 infants. Michelle and Kris will assist Australian epidemiologists and toxicologists to investigate the potential for environmental chemicals in this study cohort to impact T1D as well as how systematic review can broadly survey and categorize the T1DM literature.

## **PUBLICATION AND PRODUCT UPDATES:**

**Manganese Testing under a Clean Air Act Test Rule and the Application of Resultant Data in Risk Assessments.** George Woodall and Annie Jarabek are co-authors with colleagues Will Boyes and Darcie Smith on a manuscript to Neurotoxicology entitled “Manganese Testing under a Clean Air Act Test Rule and the Application of Resultant Data in Risk Assessments”. This manuscript will be included in a special issue titled Manganese Health Effects on Neurodevelopment and Neurodegenerative Diseases devoted to the 28th International Neurotoxicology Conference, MANGANESE2016, held in New York City, September 25-28, 2016. The manuscript describes the development of a comprehensive database that resulted from a test rule prescribed under the Clean Air Act initiated by OAR/OAQPS and overseen by members of both ORD and OAR. The resultant data has informed various health-based reference values and regulatory decisions.

doi: 10.1016/j.neuro.2017.06.014

<https://doi.org/10.1016/j.neuro.2017.06.014>

**Adverse outcome pathways: a concise introduction for toxicologists.** Michelle coauthored an article in Archives of Toxicology titled “Adverse outcome pathways: a concise introduction for toxicologists”. The manuscript provides a synopsis of the main principles related to the AOP framework for the toxicologist less familiar with this area, and includes two case studies.

doi: 10.1007/s00204-017-2020-z

<http://rdcu.be/tLN5>

**Exposure to Perfluorinated Alkyl Substances and Health Outcomes in Children.** Three EPA scientists including Erin Hines co-authored the publication “Exposure to Perfluorinated Alkyl Substances and Health Outcomes in Children: A Systematic Review of the Epidemiologic Literature.” Perfluoroalkyl substances (PFAS), chemicals used to make products stain and stick resistant, have been linked to health effects in adults and adverse birth outcomes. A growing body of literature also addresses health effects in children exposed to PFAS. This review summarizes the epidemiologic evidence for relationships between prenatal and/or childhood exposure to PFAS and health outcomes in children as well as to provide a risk of bias analysis of the literature.

doi: 10.3390/ijerph14070691

<http://www.mdpi.com/1660-4601/14/7/691>

**Research standardization tools: pregnancy measures in the PhenX Toolkit.** As an invited member of the PhenX Pregnancy Working Group, Erin Hines was a co-author on the publication “Research standardization tools: pregnancy measures in the PhenX Toolkit.” The PhenX Toolkit (<http://www.phenxtoolkit.org>), supported since 2007 by the National Institutes of Health, is a web-based catalog of standardized protocols for measuring phenotypes and exposures relevant for clinical research. In 2016, a working group of pregnancy experts including Erin Pias Hines recommended 15 measures for the PhenX Toolkit that are highly relevant to pregnancy research. The standardized measures within the pregnancy domain offer a valuable resource to investigators and clinicians and are well poised to facilitate collaborative pregnancy research with the goal to improve patient care.

doi: 10.1016/j.ajog.2017.05.058

<http://www.sciencedirect.com/science/article/pii/S0002937817306877>

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